

## Message Text

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PAGE 01     DACCA 02777 230906Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 IGA-02 L-03  
/040 W

-----230914Z 002806 /10

O 230820Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4748

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 2777

PASS TO AID/ASIA/BIS AND USDA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, BG, US

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH FOODGRAIN SITUATION

REFS: A. STATE 117021 B. DACCA 2440 C. DACCA 2438  
D. STATE 102598

1. MISSION CONFIRMS THAT DATA PROVIDED REF A, PARAS 2 AND 3, IS FAIRLY CLOSE TO OUR MOST RECENT ESTIMATES. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT ESTIMATES CHANGE DAILY AS MINOR ADJUSTMENTS ARE MADE TO DONOR COMMITMENTS, SHIPPING SCHEDULES, ETC. ALSO PLEASE NOTE THAT U.S. MISSION IS ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL PARTIES KEEPING FOOD BOOKS. IN THIS CONTEXT THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS QUOTE VALID UNQUOTE FORECAST.

2. DOMESTIC PROCUREMENT. ESTIMATES VARY WIDELY. FOR THE PERIOD APRIL - DECEMBER, WFP PROJECTED 232,000 TONS, AVM MAHMOOD ESTIMATE 160,000, THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROJECTED 125,000 TONS AND USAID'S ESTIMATE IS 192,000 TONS. PARTICULARLY ON BDG SIDE ESTIMATES APPEAR TO FLUCUATE WITH THE NEED OF THE MOMENT, E.G. TO JUSTIFY ADDITIONAL SHIPMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.  
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WE NOTE THAT IF BDG IS EVER TO ACHIEVE 500,000 TONS ANNUAL PROCUREMENT TARGET IT MUST PROCURE A MINIMUM OF 250,000 TONS IN THREE MONTH PERIOD NOVEMBER THRU JANUARY.

3. OFFTAKES. USAID ESTIMATE IS WEEKLY FOOD REPORT DATED 5/3/77 WAS BASED UPON BEST EFFORTS LANGUAGE WITH RE-SPECT CONTRAINING STATUTORY RATION OFFTAKES IN FY

77 PL 480 AGREEMENT. THIS ESTIMATE HAS BEEN SHARED WITH BDG. HOWEVER, IN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY (REF D) WE WERE ASKED TO PROVIDE OUR BEST ESTIMATE OF WHAT WOULD HAPPEN. OUR RESPONSE (REF B) INDICATED HIGHER OFFTAKE LEVEL THRU DECEMBER OF PESSIMISTIC ASSUMPTION THAT THE QUOTE BDG TAKES ONLY MINIMAL SELF HELP MEASURES UNQUOTE. THE MISSION HAS NOT AND DOES NOT INTEND TO SHARE THIS HIGHER OFFTAKE PROJECTION WITH BDG. MISSION WISHES TO MAINTAIN STANCE THAT WE EXCEPT BDG TO CONSTRAIN OFFTAKES PER THE FY 77 AGREEMENT.

4. DURING THE PAST TWO MONTHS, BDG HAS SENT A NUMBER OF HIGH LEVEL VISITORS TO WASHINGTON WHO HAVE RAISED FOOD ASSISTANCE AS A TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION. THESE INCLUDE SAIFUR RAHMAN, COMMERCE ADVISOR; MANZUR MURSHED, FOOD SECRETARY, KAZI

(#)

AND ADMIRAL KHAN. WE BELIEVE WASHINGTON'S ATTEMPTS TO GET THE BDG TO CENTER ITS DISCUSSION WITH U.S. MISSION IN DACCA IS SENSIBLE AND SHOULD BE STRESSED AS OPPORTUNITIES ARISE WITH FUTURE BDG VISITORS WHO RAISE THE MATTER. SINCE WE NOW ENGAGED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN AMENDMENT PL 480 TITLE I AGREEMENT WE WOULD PREFER THAT WASHINGTON NOT ENGAGE ITSELF IN FOOD NUMBERS GAME WITH ADMIRAL KHAN. HOWEVER, IF THE PRESSES, WASHINGTON COULD REFER HIM TO WFP NUMBERS CITED IN MAY 3 MEMO, WHICH PRESUMABLY CONFIDENTIAL

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AND WHICH SHOWED A COMFORTABLE YEAR AND STOCK POSITION. SUBSEQUENT BDG AT THE TIME OF ITS ISSUANCE AND WHICH SHOWED A COMFORTABLE YEAR END STOCK POSITION. SUBSEQUENT BDG DATA OFFERINGS (DR. HUDA'S) HAVE SHOWN EVEN HIGHER YEAR END STOCK LEVEL PROJECTION. MASTERS

NOTE BY OC/T: DACCA 2777 (#) OMISSION CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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